The following claims are presented for examination:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting an auction in behalf of an auction solicitor, said method comprising:

publishing from a data processing system a relationship between a first auction variable and a second auction variable; and

selecting at said data processing system a winning bid in said auction, wherein the selection of said winning bid is dependent on said first auction variable **and independent of said second auction variable** .

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said winning bid is independent of said second auction variable~~ **neither said first auction variable nor said second auction variable represents quantity** .

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first auction variable is delivery schedule and said second auction variable is price.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first auction variable is time to complete and said second auction variable is price.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first auction variable is a measure of quality and said second auction variable is price.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first auction variable is price and said second auction variable is warranty period.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first auction variable is price and said second auction variable is service contract price.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first auction variable is price and said second auction variable is service contract scope.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first auction variable is price and said auction variable is the provision of one or more articles free of charge.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system calculates the value of said second auction variable based on said first auction variable and said relationship for each bid as it is received, and makes available said value of said second auction variable for display to one or more bidders.

11. (Original) A method of conducting an auction in behalf of an auction solicitor, said method comprising:

publishing from a data processing system a relationship between a first auction variable and a second auction variable, wherein said relationship is such that a change in said first auction variable in a direction that is favorable to said auction solicitor induces a change in said second auction variable in a direction that is favorable to a bidder; and

selecting at said data processing system a winning bid in said auction based on said first auction variable.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said first auction variable is delivery schedule and said second auction variable is price.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said first auction variable is time to complete and said second auction variable is price.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said first auction variable is a measure of quality and said second auction variable is price.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said first auction variable is price and said second auction variable is warranty period.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said first auction variable is price and said second auction variable is service contract price.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said first auction variable is price and said second auction variable is service contract scope.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said first auction variable is price and said auction variable is the provision of one or more articles free of charge.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said first auction variable is quantity and said second auction variable is price.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the data processing system calculates the value of said second auction variable based on said first auction variable and said relationship for each bid as it is received, and makes available said value of said second auction variable for display to one or more bidders.